Wheat
Gram
Rapee Mustard

Himachal Pradesh

Paddy
Wheat
Maize

Tamil Nadu

Paddy
Ragi
Bajra
Jowar
Groundnut
Sesamum
Sunflower

Karnataka

Paddy
Maize
Jowar
Bajra
Ragi
Tur
Groundnut
Sunflower
Safflower
Bengal Gram
Wheat

Kerala

Paddy

Madhya Pradesh

Paddy
Jowar
Bajra
Maize
Kodokutki
Tur
Groundnut
Sesamum (Til)
Soya be en
Wheat (U)
Bengal Gram
Linseed
Rape & Mustard

Maharashtra

Paddy
Bajra
Jowar
Groundnut
Tur
Sunflower
Sesamum
Niger
Ragi
Soyabeen
Wheat
Safflower
Gram

Meghalaya

Ahupaddy
Salipaddy
Rape & **Mustard**

Orissa

Paddy
Groundnirt
Mustard

Tripura

Auspaddy
Aman Paddy
Boro Paddy

West Bengal

Auspaddy
Aman Paddy
Boro Paddy
Mustard
Til
Unseed
Gram
Masur
Mung
Tur
Mashkali

A & N Islands

Paddy
Maize
Black Gram
Green Gram
Mustard

Pondicherry

Paddy

National Agriculture Policy

481. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose 10 formulate a National Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed policy and time by which it would be finalised;

(c) whether it is a fact that experts have advised Government for close interaction between the corporate sector and the farming community all over the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent the advice of experts is likely to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A National Policy on Agriculture is a final stage of drafting. It aims at the management and conservation of the natural resources base through sustainable management of land and water resources. It seeks to promote environmentally non-degrading, technilcaly sound, economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resoruces to promote sustainable development of agriculture.

The Policy will, to this end, seek to achieve:

— conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources and protection and conservation of bio-diversity;

— maintenance of food self-sufficiency;

— greater employment generation, higher household incomes and reduction of poverty through diversification of farming systems;

— reduction of regional imbalances through greater emphasic on rainfed farming and developing areas of untapped potential;

— strengthening of agricultural research & education;

— restructuring of agricultural extention to make it more demanddriven and farmer accountable;

— efficient use of inputs;

— expansion of the rural infrastructure through increased public and private sector investment;

— remunerative prices for agricultural produce through strengthening marketing institutions and infrastructure and creation of a favourable economic environment for the growth of the agriculture sector;

— value addition to farm produce through agro-processing and improved post-harvest facilities;

— revitalization of the rural credit institutions and linking credit with insurance to augment the flow of credit for agricultural and rural sector;

— higher agricultural exports and integration of the Indian commodity markets with global markets;

— creating quality consciousness among farmers and agro-processors and development of facilities for quality testing;

— benefits to the agriculture sector at par .with industry;

— greater participation of user communites;

— safeguarding the interests of women and weaker sections of the rural community;

— land reforms that lead to higher productivity with equity.

(c) and (d) Suggestions have been received from time to time from different quarters on different aspects of agriculture policy. The National Policy on Agriculture will seek to encourage collaboration between the cooperative agriculture sector and the corporate sector to promote agro-processing industry to help the farmers to realize a higher value for their produce.